

IC 6-8.1-7

Chapter 7. Confidentiality

IC 6-8.1-7-1

Confidentiality of tax information; court orders; persons eligible to receive tax information

Sec. 1. (a) This subsection does not apply to the disclosure of information concerning a conviction on a tax evasion charge. Unless in accordance with a judicial order or as otherwise provided in this chapter, the department, its employees, former employees, counsel, agents, or any other person may not divulge the amount of tax paid by any taxpayer, terms of a settlement agreement executed between a taxpayer and the department, investigation records, investigation reports, or any other information disclosed by the reports filed under the provisions of the law relating to any of the listed taxes, including required information derived from a federal return, except to:

- (1) members and employees of the department;
- (2) the governor;
- (3) the attorney general or any other legal representative of the state in any action in respect to the amount of tax due under the provisions of the law relating to any of the listed taxes; or
- (4) any authorized officers of the United States;

when it is agreed that the information is to be confidential and to be used solely for official purposes.

(b) The information described in subsection (a) may be revealed upon the receipt of a certified request of any designated officer of the state tax department of any other state, district, territory, or possession of the United States when:

- (1) the state, district, territory, or possession permits the exchange of like information with the taxing officials of the state; and
- (2) it is agreed that the information is to be confidential and to be used solely for tax collection purposes.

(c) The information described in subsection (a) relating to a person on public welfare or a person who has made application for public welfare may be revealed to the director of the division of family and children, and to any county director of family and children located in Indiana, upon receipt of a written request from either director for the information. The information shall be treated as confidential by the directors. In addition, the information described in subsection (a) relating to a person who has been designated as an absent parent by the state Title IV-D agency shall be made available to the state Title IV-D agency upon request. The information shall be subject to the information safeguarding provisions of the state and federal Title IV-D programs.

(d) The name, address, Social Security number, and place of employment relating to any individual who is delinquent in paying educational loans owed to an institution of higher education may be revealed to that institution if it provides proof to the department that the individual is delinquent in paying for educational loans. This

information shall be provided free of charge to approved institutions of higher learning (as defined by IC 20-12-21-3(2)). The department shall establish fees that all other institutions must pay to the department to obtain information under this subsection. However, these fees may not exceed the department's administrative costs in providing the information to the institution.

(e) The information described in subsection (a) relating to reports submitted under IC 6-6-1.1-502 concerning the number of gallons of gasoline sold by a distributor, and IC 6-6-2.5 concerning the number of gallons of special fuel sold by a supplier and the number of gallons of special fuel exported by a licensed exporter or imported by a licensed transporter may be released by the commissioner upon receipt of a written request for the information.

(f) The information described in subsection (a) may be revealed upon the receipt of a written request from the administrative head of a state agency of Indiana when:

- (1) the state agency shows an official need for the information; and
- (2) the administrative head of the state agency agrees that any information released will be kept confidential and will be used solely for official purposes.

(g) The name and address of retail merchants, including township, as specified in IC 6-2.5-8-1(h) may be released solely for tax collection purposes to township assessors.

(h) The department shall notify the appropriate innkeepers' tax board, bureau, or commission that a taxpayer is delinquent in remitting innkeepers' taxes under IC 6-9.

(i) All information relating to the delinquency or evasion of the motor vehicle excise tax may be disclosed to the bureau of motor vehicles in Indiana and may be disclosed to another state, if the information is disclosed for the purpose of the enforcement and collection of the taxes imposed by IC 6-6-5.

(j) All information relating to the delinquency or evasion of commercial vehicle excise taxes payable to the bureau of motor vehicles in Indiana may be disclosed to the bureau and may be disclosed to another state, if the information is disclosed for the purpose of the enforcement and collection of the taxes imposed by IC 6-6-5.5.

(k) All information relating to the delinquency or evasion of commercial vehicle excise taxes payable under the International Registration Plan may be disclosed to another state, if the information is disclosed for the purpose of the enforcement and collection of the taxes imposed by IC 6-6-5.5.

(l) This section does not apply to:

- (1) the beer excise tax (IC 7.1-4-2);
- (2) the liquor excise tax (IC 7.1-4-3);
- (3) the wine excise tax (IC 7.1-4-4);
- (4) the hard cider excise tax (IC 7.1-4-4.5);
- (5) the malt excise tax (IC 7.1-4-5);
- (6) the motor vehicle excise tax (IC 6-6-5);

- (7) the commercial vehicle excise tax (IC 6-6-5.5); and
- (8) the fees under IC 13-23.

(m) The name and business address of retail merchants within each county that sell tobacco products may be released to the division of mental health and addiction and the alcohol and tobacco commission solely for the purpose of the list prepared under IC 6-2.5-6-14.

As added by Acts 1980, P.L.61, SEC.1. Amended by P.L.95-1983, SEC.1; P.L.42-1984, SEC.5; P.L.57-1985, SEC.3; P.L.6-1987, SEC.12; P.L.65-1988, SEC.2; P.L.335-1989(ss), SEC.21; P.L.2-1992, SEC.72; P.L.4-1993, SEC.11; P.L.5-1993, SEC.23; P.L.71-1993, SEC.20; P.L.277-1993(ss), SEC.52; P.L.1-1994, SEC.31; P.L.85-1995, SEC.33; P.L.67-1996, SEC.1; P.L.119-1998, SEC.18; P.L.181-1999, SEC.7; P.L.177-1999, SEC.2; P.L.215-2001, SEC.12; P.L.204-2001, SEC.14; P.L.254-2003, SEC.12.

IC 6-8.1-7-2

Statistical studies derived from tax returns; disclosure of results; information as to individuals filing returns

Sec. 2. (a) The department may compile statistical studies from information derived from state tax returns and may disclose the results of those studies. In addition, the department may disclose statistical information from the state tax returns to the governor, the general assembly, or another state agency, for the purpose of allowing those governmental entities to conduct their own statistical studies.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), the department may not disclose the results of any study and may not disclose any statistical information if, as a result of that disclosure:

- (1) the identity of a taxpayer who filed a return would be disclosed;
- (2) the identity of a taxpayer could reasonably be associated with any of the information which was derived from his return for use in a statistical study; or
- (3) the ability of the department to obtain information from federal tax returns would, in the department's judgment, be jeopardized in any manner.

(c) Subject to the rules and regulations of the department, a person may request information as to whether an individual filed an income tax return pursuant to the Indiana income tax laws for a particular taxable year. However, the department may not disclose that information with respect to any taxable year until the close of the calendar year following the year in which the return should have been filed. As soon as practicable after the close of that calendar year, the department shall inform the person making the request whether the return was filed.

As added by Acts 1980, P.L.61, SEC.1.

IC 6-8.1-7-3

Violation; offense

Sec. 3. A person who violates the provisions of this chapter commits a Class C misdemeanor. In addition, if the person is an officer or employee of the state, he shall be immediately dismissed from his office or employment.

As added by Acts 1980, P.L.61, SEC.1.